REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY COMMITTEE

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MEETING MINUTES[1]

Meeting Date: September 26, 2007
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Senate Chambers
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Sen. Brandt Hershman, Co-Chairperson; Sen. Ryan Mishler; Sen. Beverly Gard; Sen. Ed Charbonneau; Sen. Dennis Kruse; Sen. Sue Landske; Sen. James Merritt; Sen. Sue Errington; Rep. David Crooks, Co-Chairperson; Rep. Kreg Battles; Rep. Jerry Denbo; Rep. Chester Dobis; Rep. Ryan Dvorak; Rep. Dan Stevenson; Rep. Jack Lutz; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. David Frizzell; Rep. Ed Soliday.

Members Absent: Sen. Jean Breaux; Sen. Earline Rogers; Sen. Karen Tallian; Rep. Paul Robertson; Rep. Timothy Neese.

Senator Brandt Hershman and Representative David Crooks, Co-Chairmen of the Regulatory Flexibility Committee, convened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. Senator Hershman announced that the meeting's agenda would consist of a discussion of Indiana's wireless enhanced 911 system, as directed by the Legislative Council.[2]

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[1] Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of $0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is http://www.in.gov/legislative/. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

[2]The Legislative Council directed the Committee to study the "[r]evision of the enhanced wireless 911 system to include Internet Protocol enabled services and other emerging

(1) Wireless Enhanced 911 Overview:

Senator Hershman invited Treasurer of State Richard Mourdock to provide an overview of Indiana's wireless enhanced 911 system.[3] Treasurer Mourdock began by explaining that Indiana's wireless enhanced 911 system is distinct from the state's separate 911 system for wireline phones, noting that each system is governed by a different statute and funded by a different fee. He then explained that wireless 911 is an emergency telephone system that allows a wireless phone user to access emergency services by dialing the digits "9-1-1." A wireless "enhanced" 911 (WE911) system includes both automatic number identification and automatic location identification capabilities, each of which enables important information to be conveyed to the particular public safety answering point (PSAP) that receives the incoming 911 call. With automatic number identification, the caller's ten-digit mobile handset number is transmitted to the PSAP when the emergency call is placed. Automatic location identification transmits information that can be used to identify the caller's approximate location.

As part of an effort to develop a nationwide, seamless communication system for emergency services, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued an order in 1996 to require wireless carriers to provide both automatic number identification and automatic location identification. In rules adopted in connection with the 1996 order, the FCC specified two phases for the implementation of WE911. Phase I requires carriers to be able to provide PSAPs with the wireless telephone number of the caller, as well as the location of the cell site or base station transmitting the call. Phase II requires carriers to provide more precise location information to PSAPs by identifying the latitude and longitude of the transmitting phone.

Treasurer Mourdock reported that Indiana has been a leader in deploying WE911, noting that Allen and Steuben Counties became the nation's first counties to comply with Phase I standards in April 1998, meeting the FCC's deadline for Phase I compliance by the end of that year. In November 2001, Lake County became the second county in the nation to accept Phase II calls. Treasurer Mourdock explained that the FCC has extended its Phase II compliance deadlines numerous times, with different dates applying depending on whether carriers use handset-based methods or network-based methods to provide automatic location information. As a result, Phase II national coverage is still not complete, but has been implemented gradually over the years. While Phase II capability continues to be implemented throughout the country, Indiana has nearly achieved 100% Phase II capability, once again leading the nation in WE911 compliance.

Having described the availability of WE911, Treasurer Mourdock then explained how the system is funded in Indiana. In 1998, the legislature created the Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board (Board) to administer the Wireless Emergency Telephone System Fund (Fund), from which distributions are made to cover the costs associated with WE911 services mandated by the FCC. The Board is chaired by the Treasurer of State and consists of six additional governor-appointed members, three of whom are recommended by wireless carriers, and three of whom are recommended by organizations representing PSAPs.

According to Treasurer Mourdock, the Board was established in order to oversee the implementation of Phase II service throughout the state. These efforts were initially

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technologies." Legislative Council Resolution 07-01.

[3]See Exhibit 1.

funded by a 65¢ monthly fee imposed on each wireless subscriber in the state and collected by wireless carriers through their monthly billing procedures. The statute establishing the Board (IC 36-8-16.5) originally specified that certain percentages of each fee collected were to be escrowed in four separate accounts for the following purposes: (1) to reimburse wireless carriers and PSAPs for their costs in implementing Phase II of the FCC's order; (2) to reimburse wireless carriers for capital and operating costs incurred in complying with the FCC's WE911 requirements; (3) to cover the Board's administrative costs; and (4) for population-based distributions to counties to reimburse PSAPs for costs incurred in complying with the FCC's requirements. However, in 2005, with the state's Phase II implementation nearly complete, the legislature amended IC 36-8-16.5 to require the Board to reduce the fee to not more than 50¢ once all wireless carriers had been reimbursed for their compliance costs. Accordingly, the Board reduced the fee to 50¢, effective January 1, 2006. Each 50¢ fee is now apportioned as follows: (1) $0.01 to the Board to cover its administrative costs; (2) $0.344 in population-based distributions to counties containing at least one PSAP; (3) $0.039 in equal distributions to counties containing at least one PSAP; and (4) $0.10 to a technology account to be used for WE911 services mandated by the FCC but not incurred by PSAPs.[4]

With Phase II implementation nearly complete in Indiana, Treasurer Mourdock reported that the Board is now focusing on controlling the costs of WE911 service and ensuring a uniform level of service for all PSAPs. The Board is also investigating the potential impact of new technologies on the state's WE911 system. For example, the Board is exploring the possibility of PSAPs receiving text messages or video images, similar to an initiative underway in New York City to allow cell phone users to transmit photos of incidents directly to the city's 911 call center. Treasurer Mourdock also announced the Board's goal of implementing "reverse 911" service in Indiana, whereby emergency information can be transmitted to phones and other communications devices.

Despite the possibilities that new technology holds for WE911, Treasurer Mourdock acknowledged that funding basic PSAP services and wireline E911 remains a challenge for the majority of Indiana counties that are outside the state's main population centers. In these less populated counties, funding wireline E911 has become increasingly difficult, as the number of wireline subscribers declines. Noting that wireline E911 is funded by a separate fee imposed by county or municipal governments, Treasurer Mourdock reported that revenues from wireline E911 fees have declined anywhere from 3% to 9% in most counties during the past two years. However, the funds that PSAPs receive from the separate WE911 fee have not made up for the lost wireline revenue. The inadequacy of the wireless fee as a replacement for decreasing wireline revenue is due to the fact that each wireline subscriber lost is not necessarily replaced by a customer subject to the WE911 fee. For example, as customers abandon dial-up Internet connections in favor of broadband connections, they often relinquish a second phone line dedicated to the dial-up connection. Similarly, while users of voice over Internet protocol (VOIP) service have access to the 911 system, they currently are not required to pay either the monthly wireline or the monthly WE911 fee.[5]

While the fees contributed by wireless subscribers are insufficient to remedy the funding

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[4]The numbers listed for the allocation of the wireless E911 fee do not total 50¢, because they do not account for $0.007 of each fee that wireless carriers are allowed to retain to defray their administrative costs in collecting the fee.

[5]While VOIP providers are not required to collect and remit the wireline E911 fee or the WE911 fee, Vonage voluntarily collects and remits Indiana's 50¢ WE911 fee.

shortfalls experienced by many of the state's PSAPs, the volume of calls placed to PSAPs by wireless phones continues to increase. Treasurer Mourdock reported that in 2006, the wireless 911 network handled 1.6 million calls. These wireless calls accounted for more than half of all 911 calls received, with some counties receiving over 75% of their 911 calls from wireless phones. Furthermore, because of the widespread use of wireless phones, a single incident can generate dozens of calls, placing additional demands on the system.

Because the state's PSAPs are confronting increasing demands while simultaneously receiving less revenue, the Board has commissioned Ball State University to perform an "equitable rate analysis" to determine the fairest way to fund both wireline and wireless E911 services. While the Board awaits the results of the study, it continues to examine other states' approaches to funding E911. Treasurer Mourdock noted that some states now impose a single, uniform fee on all users of the system, regardless of the technology used to access the system. He pointed to a 5% "universal communications tax" proposed by the Virginia legislature as an example of such a fee.

In closing, Treasurer Mourdock urged legislators to consider whether the state should adopt a mandatory fee for all devices that have access to Indiana's E911 systems. He also asked them to think about whether a single fee structure should be implemented, and, if so, how the fee should be collected and distributed. Finally, he encouraged lawmakers to consider how the consolidation of existing PSAPs could be used to achieve efficiencies and alleviate funding challenges.

(2) 911 Networks:

Following Treasurer Mourdock's overview, Mark Grady, General Manager of INdigital Telecom, described his company's role in developing Indiana's WE911 network.[6] Mr. Grady explained that the Board selected his company to build a new WE911 network for the state after conducting a competitive bidding process. After being awarded the contract, INdigital developed a plan to implement the network in two generations. The first generation, dubbed "Project Crossroads," involved building the network and ensuring that all wireless carriers were connected to it. Mr. Grady reported that construction began in late 2005, with Project Crossroads going live in January 2006. By July 2006, all 12 wireless carriers serving Indiana were connected to the network. The project's second generation involves ensuring 100% Phase II coverage (i.e., handset location capability) throughout the state. INdigital is working steadily to achieve this goal, progressing from 79% Phase II coverage in January 2006, to 82% coverage in January 2007.

After describing the technical capabilities of the WE911 network, Mr. Grady shared some of his observations about the state's emergency response system. He noted that while the network itself spans the entire state, the emergency services it enables are delivered locally. He stressed that the ability of individual agencies to communicate with one another is critical to the effectiveness of first responders. Addressing concerns expressed about the proliferation of PSAPs in some areas of the state, Mr. Grady reported that there are 23 counties with multiple PSAPs. He noted that most of these multiple-PSAP counties include one or more larger, "primary" PSAPs and one or more smaller, "secondary" PSAPs that receive calls transferred from a primary PSAP. In the 13 counties that have more than one primary PSAP, each primary PSAP serves an individual local jurisdiction. Mr. Grady suggested that these counties have certain population bases or geographic areas that necessitate more than one primary PSAP. For example, an area near an interstate highway may require its own primary PSAP to receive the larger volume of calls generated

[6]See Exhibit 2.

by motor vehicle accidents. Similarly, a college town may need a PSAP to handle the spike in emergency calls on weekend nights. Due to their dense populations, urban areas often require more than one PSAP.

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Grady argued that the type and quantity of PSAPs across the state have evolved in response to the volume of calls transmitted in particular areas. He assured legislators that whatever solutions they propose to address funding for PSAPs, the state's WE911 network will continue to enable these agencies to respond effectively to the areas they serve.

(3) Local Officials and Emergency Personnel:

After learning about the state's E911 networks, the Committee heard from a number of local officials who expressed their concerns about E911 funding. First, Tom Bindle, Communications Director for Kosciusko County 911, testified about the E911 funding shortfall in his county. He explained that one PSAP serves the entire county. While the county has a population of just 76,000 in the winter, that number grows to over 200,000 in the summer months, as tourists and seasonal residents arrive to enjoy the county's 101 lakes. For the county's PSAP, this means an increase in the average number of calls per month from 1,700 during the winter, to more than 2,200 in the summer. Mr. Bindle reported that the PSAP's budget has not increased since 2000, except for periodic increases in staff pay. He testified that the county's current $1.00 wireline E911 fee would need to be increased to $2.59 per month in order to fully fund the PSAP's operations. He indicated that the county council is reluctant to do so, given that citizens of the county already subsidize E911 services for the influx of tourists who use the system but do not have to pay for it. Mr. Bindle urged legislators to adopt one fee for both wireline and wireless services. He suggested that the Treasurer of State and the Board could collect the fees on a statewide basis and then distribute them to individual counties as appropriate.

Next, K.D. Benson, a Tippecanoe County Commissioner, described E911 funding in his county. Mr. Benson indicated that the expenses of the county's four PSAPs have steadily increased over the years, due to rising costs for technology upgrades, system maintenance, and staffing. In recognition of these rising costs, the county passed an ordinance in 2005 to increase the wireline E911 fee from 95¢ to $1.52. Mr. Benson reported that he has received few complaints about the increase from county residents. While encouraging legislators to adopt a "technologically neutral" fee that would apply uniformly to all types of communications services, he argued that local units need to have additional funding options available to them. He noted that counties and municipalities are currently prohibited by statute from imposing a wireline E911 that exceeds 3% of the average monthly telephone access line charge in the unit. As a result, Tippecanoe County has had to use money from its general fund to pay for some of the expenses of its PSAPs.

Mr. Benson then turned the discussion over to Sheriff Tracy Brown, who further described the funding shortfalls in Tippecanoe County. While acknowledging that some efficiencies could probably be achieved by consolidating one or more the county's PSAPs, Sheriff Brown noted that these PSAPs each serve unique populations. For example, of the county's 156,000 residents, approximately half live outside the limits of a municipality and are served by the PSAP operated by the Tippecanoe County Sheriff. Similarly, a PSAP operated by Purdue University serves the school's 38,712 students.

Sheriff Brown reported that the county's PSAPs receive more than 80,000 calls each year, many of which concern serious emergencies, and a growing percentage of which are placed from wireless phones. He noted that while VOIP providers are not required to

collect either the wireline or wireless E911 fees, Vonage is voluntarily collecting the 50¢ wireless fee, and Insight Communications is voluntarily collecting the county's $1.52 wireline fee. Still, the county's emergency telephone system fund is projected to have a balance of just $250,000 at the end of 2008. Sheriff Brown suggested that the county will need legislative assistance in order to meet its emergency service obligations at that time.

The Committee then heard from Larry Brinker, Communications Director for Hendricks County. Speaking on behalf of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT), Mr. Brinker described the recently completed consolidation of four PSAPs in Hendricks County. Finalized on September 18, the consolidation is projected to save $4 million in equipment costs and $300,000 in annual operating costs. A product of the consolidation, the new Hendricks County Communications Center features state-of-the-art equipment used to dispatch police, fire, and emergency medical services throughout the county. Mr. Brinker reported that all agencies in the county are now able to communicate through a common radio system, and all emergency vehicles are equipped with laptop computers. The county is now in the process of installing GPS devices in the vehicles, so that dispatchers can determine the exact location of each vehicle when calls are received. According to Mr. Brinker, as the county works to further upgrade the system's technology, the process for receiving calls and dispatching services has already improved. All incoming calls now arrive at the Communications Center, and all assistance is dispatched from the Center, eliminating the need to reroute incoming calls from one agency to another.

Also speaking on behalf of IACT, Chief Joseph Pitcher of the Greenwood Police Department provided additional testimony on the challenges faced by local agencies. He began by cautioning lawmakers not to view the consolidation in Hendricks County as a "one size fits all" model to be implemented throughout the state. Referring to similar assertions made earlier by Mr. Grady, Chief Pitcher stated that there are "good reasons" that 23 counties in Indiana have more than one PSAP, given the various population densities and geographic features in different parts of the state.

Chief Pitcher then stressed the need to include VOIP carriers in E911 funding structures. He reported that some VOIP carriers have asked counties to sign agreements assuming liability for the carriers' provision of E911 capabilities. Chief Pitcher argued that as calls from VOIP users continue to place increasing demands on PSAPs, VOIP carriers should be responsible for collecting the same fee that other carriers are required to collect.

Finally, the Committee heard from Beth Garber, Director of Government Affairs for Allen County. Ms. Garber began by noting that Allen County has been a leader in adopting E911 technologies, becoming the first county in the nation to have E911 capability in 1990, as well as the first county in the nation to implement Phase I technology in 1998. Having implemented Phase II technology in 2002, Allen County is now looking ahead to the possibility of enabling text or video transmissions, as well as interstate communications. However, Ms. Garber acknowledged that it will be difficult to implement these advanced functions, given the county's funding constraints. In 2006, the county received $178,000 less in 911 revenue than in the year before, and it expects to collect $200,000 less in 2007 than it did in 2006. Ms. Garber reported this trend of declining annual revenue persists, despite the fact that the county raised its wireline E911 fee in 2004 from 30¢ to 70¢. She maintained that by imposing a uniform fee on all technologies, the state could help reverse the revenue losses that prevent local units from improving their E911 systems.

After Ms. Garber concluded her remarks, Senator Hershman announced at 12:30 p.m. that the Committee would recess until 2:00 p.m.

(4) Proposed E911 Reform:

Senator Hershman reconvened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. by inviting comments from John Koppin, President of the Indiana Telecommunications Association.[7] Mr. Koppin began by arguing that the current funding mechanism, in which two separate fees are collected to ultimately fund the same PSAPs, no longer makes sense in the current telecommunications environment. He contended that the wireline fee, which was established in 1988 when wireline carriers held a virtual monopoly for the provision of phone service, is no longer adequate to fund 911 services in a state that now has more wireless than wireline customers. Furthermore, because the amount of the wireline fee is determined by local governments, the fee varies widely across the state, from 30¢ in Allen County, to $3.00 in Cass County. Mr. Koppin argued that in order to provide more uniformity for different areas of the state and for different types of providers, the state needs to take a comprehensive look at its E911 funding structure. Mr. Koppin then recommended five principles for E911 reform, based on recent legislation passed in Florida and North Carolina.

First, he recommended the adoption of a single, statewide fee that would apply equally to all users of voice service, regardless of the technology used to deliver the service. He emphasized that the assessment of E911 fees should not create a competitive disadvantage for any particular type of service. Second, he urged lawmakers to create a single, statewide board to oversee E911 planning, administration, fee collection, and fund distribution. The board should include balanced representation among service providers, local and state government, and other interested parties. Mr. Koppin suggested that the creation of a new state board should be accompanied by a merger of the existing E911 wireless and wireline funds.

Next, Mr. Koppin argued for restrictions on the expenditure of 911 funds by local units. He suggested that as "user fees," 911 fees should be used only for direct 911 expenses, and not for other public safety expenses, such as radios or vehicles. Fourth, Mr. Koppin maintained that the protections from liability afforded by existing law should be extended to providers of new voice technologies, in order to ensure their participation in the system. Mr. Koppin noted that Indiana's existing statutes exempt wireless and wireline providers, PSAPs, political subdivisions, and members of the Board from liability in connection with E911 service, except in the case of "willful or wanton" misconduct. He suggested that this standard should be maintained. Finally, Mr. Koppin recommended that the funding of E911 services through a new statewide fee should be "revenue neutral" and not provide an increase in the total amount of revenue collected. He argued that once all service providers are subject to the fee, any remaining revenue shortfalls should be addressed through the consolidation of PSAPs.

(5) Effects of P.L.104-2006 on AT&T's Business Development:

Turning momentarily to another issue, Senator Hershman asked Steve Rogers, Director of Government Relations for AT&T Indiana, to discuss the effects of P.L.104-2006 (HEA 1279) on AT&T's business development efforts. Mr. Rogers reminded the Committee that the new law allows telecommunications providers to gradually increase their rates for basic service, in exchange for making certain investments in broadband service. The legislation also established state-level video franchising, allowing new providers to enter the market. Mr. Rogers reported that before the enactment of P.L.104-2006, AT&T's stock price had fallen, as it faced competition from new technologies that were not subject to the state's

[7]See Exhibit 3.

existing telecommunication laws. He pointed out that those laws had originally been adopted in 1985, when wireline carriers held a virtual monopoly in providing basic phone service, and before wireless and VOIP providers had a significant presence in the market. Arguing that P.L.104-2006 has afforded various providers a chance to compete for Indiana customers on equal terms, Mr. Rogers described some of the new services that are now available in the state as a result of this new regulatory climate.

Mr. Rogers reported that 70,000 additional homes now have access to highspeed Internet service. The communications industry as a whole has invested $400 million to deploy broadband service in the state, $250 million of which has been invested by AT&T. Along with this investment in infrastructure, 1,900 new jobs have been created, with AT&T responsible for 1,105 of them. Mr. Rogers then described AT&T's new Internet Protocol television (IPTV) service, which is being marketed as "U-verse." He indicated that the service is available in 25 markets in the United States, including five in Indiana: Indianapolis, Bloomington, Anderson, Muncie, and Kokomo.

(6) WARN Act of 1996:

Mr. Rogers then introduced Joe Divis, Director of External Affairs for AT&T Mobility. Mr. Divis discussed the Warning, Alert and Response Network (WARN) Act passed by Congress in 2006. He explained that the WARN Act will establish a voluntary, national emergency alert system to enable interoperable communications among public safety agencies throughout the country. He noted that the national system will be designed to allow the transmission of alerts across the greatest possible variety of communications technologies, including digital and analog broadcasts, satellite and cable television, satellite and terrestrial radio, wireline and wireless communications, and the Internet. Mr. Divis suggested that this redundancy of communications technologies is crucial, given the potential for any one network to experience congestion. For example, as a shared network serving over 200 million subscribers in the United States, the wireless network often experiences congestion, even in the absence of an emergency situation. Similarly, in a recent test by Purdue University of the use of text messaging to communicate alerts to students, it took seven minutes to send 10,000 text messages. In a true emergency, critical information would likely need to reach a much larger number of people much faster. Having noted the important role that a national alert system can play in quickly disseminating emergency information, Mr. Divis concluded his remarks by reporting that a working group formed under the WARN Act would be issuing recommendations concerning the development of the system within the next week.

(7) Reverse 911:

Next, Kevin McCarthy, President of Reverse 911, described his company's patented outbound notification system. Headquartered in Indianapolis, Reverse 911 has patented the "REVERSE 911 Interactive Community Notification System." The system uses a combination of database and GIS mapping technologies to deliver outbound notifications to general populations or targeted groups. According to Mr. McCarthy, Reverse 911 owns 70% of the market for outbound notification systems in the United States. He reported that the company's products are used by law enforcement agencies, emergency management agencies, local governments, utility companies, and health care facilities.

Mr. McCarthy explained that the REVERSE 911 system can be used to quickly target a precise geographic area and saturate it with thousands of calls per hour. He noted that while the REVERSE 911 system is capable of sending out thousands of calls each minute, doing so is usually counterproductive, because most existing wireline and wireless networks will not be able to handle the volume of calls. In his experience, Mr. McCarthy

has found that 500 to 5,000 calls can be effectively placed at one time, depending on the particular communications networks involved. However, he noted that in most emergencies there usually is not a need to notify a total of more 20,000 to 30,000 people. For larger emergencies, most people will receive needed information through television and radio broadcasts. Still, Mr. McCarthy stressed that the development of a national emergency alert system under the WARN Act is critical to improving the ability of companies such as his to effectively disseminate information in times of emergency. Mr. McCarthy expressed his disappointment that despite his company's large share of the emergency notification market, he was not invited to participate in the working group established under the WARN Act.

(10) Role of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security:

Eric Dietz, Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), discussed the role of the IDHS in assisting local communities in times of emergency or disaster. He explained that the agency's Division of Emergency Response assists local emergency response units in coordinating the management of various incidents. The IDHS also operates the state's Emergency Operations Center, which tracks and disseminates disaster information gathered from a network of state agencies, volunteer organizations, and county-level emergency management agencies. Mr. Dietz then described the agency's new Mobile Command Center (MCC), which can be deployed across the state to assist local PSAPs. He reported that the MCC accommodates a staff of 12 and includes a GIS workstation, two flat screen video boards, a wireless weather station, and a telescoping mast equipped with a 360-degree camera. Mr. Dietz indicated that the IDHS will apply for federal grant money to establish additional mobile command sites.

(11) Role of Indiana State Police:

Following Mr. Dietz's remarks, Kelly Digenin, a former dispatcher for the Indiana State Police (ISP), informed the Committee about the ISP's dispatch operations. According to Ms. Digenin, the ISP used to take all incoming wireless 911 calls, but now receives only the overflow calls that local PSAPs cannot handle. She reported that three ISP posts serve as E911 centers: the posts in Terre Haute and Seymour, along with the post that serves the Indiana Toll Road. She explained that the remaining 15 posts are not equipped to receive automatic number identification.

Ms. Digenin then turned the discussion over to Andre Clark, the Amber Alert Coordinator for the ISP. Mr. Clark explained that the Amber Alert Plan is a statewide notification program to help locate abducted and endangered children within the first 24 hours of their abduction. The state's Amber Alert Plan distributes alerts about abducted children through the Emergency Alert System (EAS), which is a network of radio stations, television stations, and cable systems that communicate various warnings to the public. In stressing that Amber Alerts are highly time-sensitive, Mr. Clark cited a statistic from the National Association of Missing and Kidnapped Children indicating that 74% of all abducted children who are later found dead were killed within the first three hours of their abduction. Given the importance of communicating information on abducted children in an expedient manner, Mr. Clark voiced the ISP's support for upgrading Indiana's EAS to include satellite technology.

(12) Upgrading Indiana's EAS:

Before concluding the meeting, the Co-Chairmen allowed Charlie Morgan, Vice Chair–Radio for the Indiana Broadcasters Association, to again address the Committee

about upgrading the state's EAS. Having spoken to the Committee at its meeting on September 12, Mr. Morgan again argued that the reliability of the state's existing EAS is compromised by the fact that it relies on a "daisy chain" system, in which alerts are received and disseminated from one station to another through a "chain" of participating broadcasters. This system results in delays from the time an alert is first issued by state or local authorities to the time the information eventually reaches stations farther down in the distribution network. However, Mr. Morgan maintained that these delays could be virtually eliminated if Indiana were to implement the EMnet satellite system that is now operational in 13 states. He explained that the system involves sending satellite signals to a statewide network of terminals, which in turn convey the signals directly to participating broadcast stations and cable headends. According to Mr. Morgan, Indiana could implement EMnet statewide within a year's time for a cost of $294,170. He urged lawmakers to consider providing funding for this initiative during the upcoming legislative session.

Following Mr. Morgan's testimony, Senator Kruse suggested that the Committee should consider the possibility of financing upgrades to the state's EAS through potential savings that could be realized through the consolidation of PSAPs in certain areas of the state. After brief discussion, the Committee generally agreed that members would individually investigate this and other funding options in the months ahead. The Co-Chairmen then adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.